Washington Dec 14/51

Friend Meriam

Your favor of 13th inst is at hand

In reply I have to inform that I have requested the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish you with the information you desire forthwith

I wish to say to you Confidentially that Mr Corwin will in his report to Congress in a few days recommend the Establishment of a Mint in our City. He called me to his office to say that he was convinced of his Error of last year in opposing it, and that he was now strongly in its favor

I told him I would now forgive him for his past Sins on that question and call him a gentleman every where

He desired me not to have this information get out, so keep dark until the report is made which will be in a few days

Your obt Servt

Geo Briggs

I mail you this day a copy of the Post Office Rept

moc
Postal Reformer

House of Reps March 26th 1860

Dear Messrs

Your esteemed favor of the 20th inst came duly to hand, and contents perused with great pleasure

In reply, permit me to say, that owing to the great pressure of official duty here, is my ~~apology~~ excuse for not writing you before this.

I approve of the plan adopted by Ex Senator Fish in sending a printed letter, accompanying the sending off any Pub Docs, I shall profit by his plan, whenever this Congress furnishes me with the documents ordered to be printed

I am still the friend

of the Indian Act they found one in Congress before this, and was ready to serve them

I have not made any noise about it, but am as earnest as ever to complete the work, that I so gloriously commenced in the 31st, and followed up in the 32nd Congress to establish a branch of the Mint of ~~the~~ U.S. in the City of New York

The Assay Office has assumed a practicable good purpose, and is about Seven Eighths of a Mint, I have before the Committee on Commerce a bill investing the Assay Office with power to Coin Gold and Silver

I am from a

favorable report of that bill any day, but are delaying a report, waiting for some statistical matter from the Secretary of the Treasury, bearing favorably upon that desirable measure

I feel strong in the confidence, that my Mint bill will pass this session

I have in my honorable Colleague Mr Cochrane a good Coadjutor in the endeavor to procure the passage of a measure so much desired, and needed as that of a Mint in the great metropolis of the Country

Why have I not seen you here, as usual battling for the real interest of humanity.

Yours in haste
Geo Briggs

Private

E. Merriam Esq

My dear Sir

I have yours enclosing the plan and description of the Hurl-gate Rocks. If its correctly delineated, I had no idea, that it was of a form so dangerous. Let me be assured, that it is correctly drawn, and I shall be enabled to urge it favorably in Committee.

On the subject of the mint, my colleague Mr Briggs as the successor of Mr Tallmadge, is desirous to introduce a bill on notice, — of course, it has been ~~is~~ conceded to him — but you will oblige me by furnishing me with as much information in detail, as you can collect on that important subject, as I wish to give him all the aid in my power

Respectfully Yours
J. Phillips Phoenix
Ho. of Reps. 12 Dec '49

E Merriam Esq

D Sir

I have yours from the "Banks of Lake Erie". You certainly do not forget us in your ramblings — Would, that we could effect, that which is so much desired by our friends — but, we must take our chances with others.

I am in hopes the mint bill may be called up successfully but it is quite uncertain.

The same may be said in relation to the Light House and Harbour appropriation bill —

Every effort will be made — but if we fail they will be taken up early the 2d Session

Yours truly

J Phillips Phoenix

Ho. of Reps. Sep 15/50

Jonas Philips Phoenix
1788-1859
merchant, NYC., MOC,
whig politician
commissioner for Croton Aqueduct

E. Merriam Esq

D. Sir

I have your letter in relation to the mud. You must leave this subject to the delegation, they watch every opportunity to move in the business - as they are all greatly interested in the result.

Do you know if the City of New Haven made any appropriation for the removing of the rocks - what is the condition of those obstructions ascertained to exist by the surveyor

Truly &c

J. Phillips Phoenix

Ho. of Reps. 4 Dec 1850.

House of Reps Dec 30/50

E Merriam Esq

Dear Sir

Will you please furnish me soon as practicable the amount of Gold Dust and Bullion recd at New York since the time of Mr Phelps made his Report in the House of Rep on the Mint Bill I wish to bring the Gold recepts up in full to the end of this year

Also please inform me what is the premium of Small Gold pieces and Silver in Wall St at the present time

I introduced to the President the Delegation of Chiefs of the Winnebago Indians now residing in Wisconsin. The President assured them that their matters should receive attention I will assist them all in my power

Yours in haste
Geo Briggs

We shall soon know the fate of the Mint Bill
I desire that no part of this letter appears in the newspapers

James Brooks
1810-73
author, statesman
M.C., NYS Const. Conv.

Washington Dec 10th 1857

Dear Sir

I am much obliged to you for the statement of the gold rec'd at New York from California from Jan 6 to Dec 1—1857. It demonstrates that New York is the proper place for the mint.

What seems to me to be now wanted in a statistical way, is, if it can be got, the amount of gold, or silver, that goes from Chagres to Europe from North or South America, the comparative rates of freight and insurance between Chagres and England, and New York & Chagres, — so as to show that, if we had a mint, we could be the entrepot in New York.

It is my opinion, that New York ought to be the receiving, and distributing mount of the precious metals of America; — and whatever you can gather to show that fact will aid us here.

In the pursuit of your investigations, you will also be able to show, I think, that the current rates of Foreign Exchange will

aid us.

But nothing astonishes me more than the comparative indifference of the Merchants and Bankers of N.Y. as to this important matter. Nobody seems to be much interested in it, but many against it. Philadelphia hangs to bear and all the Express carriers, and about all the Specie Brokers of even New York, to put us down, and keep us down. We shall fail, therefore, it is probable, in our present efforts, but we shall try.

Yours Respectfully
James Brooks

#859
$25

Senate Chamber
March 22-1853

Dear Sir

Please suggest at the earliest possible moment the name of some one or more suitable persons to be Superintendent of our Assay Office. It should be a Democrat - but above all let him be an honest & a capable

man - .. we want a
man of capacity & of fidelity
to *start* our Office - It is
very important to start right
for this much depends
upon the Superintendent
Let me hear *at once*

Yours truly
Hamilton Fish

E Merriam Esq

PS - Let nothing become public
about this - Write to Mr King
& Mr Phoenix - consult them
& any others you please - but
do not refer to this letter -

Senate Chamber, May 30, 1854

My Dear Sir

I send herewith a copy of a Bill introduced a few days since, and attempted to be rushed through yesterday — I wish to call your attention to it and especially to the 4th & 5th sections. The object and purport of which are to relieve the Government from the cost of transporting Gold xxx from N. Y. to Philadelphia for coinage — and in other respects to impair the usefulness and in fact the value of the Assay Office.

I obtained its postponement yesterday — And I think it important that those interested in the Assay Office should express their opinion. You will observe that the effect of the proposed law not only throws upon the owner of bullion to be coined, the cost of transportation from N. Y. to the Mint — but also takes away the issuing of certificates which are receivable for public dues for sixty days after issue. I think too there is an intention to affect the *value* of the bullion certificates

I write in haste
Faithfully yours
Hamilton Fish

E. Meriam Esq